

NORTH WITCHEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended

31st December, 1964.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

The Lindens,
Doddington,
March, Cambs.
Tel. Doddington 206.

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1964 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Public Health Committee.

This comprises the whole Council.

(2) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Public Health Inspector - JOHN METCALFE, M.R.S.H.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of the Local Authority.

(4) Hospital.

Most Patients are now treated at Doddington Hospital.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(6) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of adults engaged on agricultural work continues to decrease with the drift towards factory employment in nearby towns. Seasonal employment on farm work is still available for many members of the female adult population.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	24,701
Population (estimated mid year by Registrar General) ...	4,620
Number of inhabited houses	1,607
Rateable Value	£96,740
Estimated net product of a penny rate	£375

The estimated population for mid year is below the figure for the census return in 1961 which was 4,737.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Number	68
Rate per 1000 population	14.71

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 8.82

Still Births.

Number	3
Rate per 1000 total live and still births ...	42.25

Total Live and Still Births.. ... 71

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) ... Nil

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births..	Nil
Legitimate " " " legitimate live births	Nil
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)... Nil

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births ... Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births) 42.25

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.. ...	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Deaths in Area and Causes:

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4	5
Coronary disease, angina	7	1	8
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	8	5	13
Other circulatory disease	-	3	3
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Nephritis & nephrosis	1	-	1
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	-	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>54</u>

The death rate for the Rural District in 1964 was 11.68 per 1,000 population which was exactly the same as for the previous year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>Total Notified.</u>
Measles	53
Dysentery	1
Acute Pneumonia	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>56</u>

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the Rural District during 1964.



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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1964.

Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42.
Fried Fish Shops..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.
Factory Acts Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39.
Bakehouses..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Sanitary Accommodation..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.
Refuse Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.
Rats and Mice (including premises visited by Rodent Operator)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70.
Manure and Refuse Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.
Nightsoil Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84.
Dykes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.
Buildings under Construction and Alteration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	328.
New drain tests..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.
Sewer Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78.
Petroleum Installations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.
Poultry Farms and Piggeries..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.
Infectious Disease Inquiries..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Offices Shops and Railway Premises..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES.

(1) Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council Houses)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.
(2) Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance (not included in (1))	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
(3) Number of inspections for the above purposes (1) and (2) (including re-inspections)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63.
(4) Number of dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(5) Inspections of Verminous or Dirty Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
(6) Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39.
(7) Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	817.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Butchers' Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Ice Cream Premises (Retail)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.

HOUSING.

The Council commenced the erection of 6 bungalows and 4 houses on a new project at Chapel Gardens, Benwick, during 1964, and at the end of the year two of the bungalows had been completed and were occupied.

Seven dwellings were erected by private enterprise and four more were under construction at the end of the year.

Two bungalows were erected by the Isle of Ely Smallholding's Committee to replace obsolete dwellings at Stonea and three further County Council dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

There are a number of vacant farm cottages situated in isolated areas which are becoming depopulated and gradually these houses deteriorate and are either demolished or used for agricultural storage.

Summary of the post war development in the District:-

Rural District Council	216 dwellings
County Council Departments	9 "
Drainage Boards	4 "
Hospital Board	2 "
Private Enterprise	158 "
Private Enterprise (Conversions)	<u>2</u> "
	<u>391</u> "

Further progress was made on Slum Clearance as can be seen from the following figures:-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders or voluntarily by owners.	...	...	...	...	...	14.
Closing Orders made...	...	...	...	...	...	1.
Undertakings Accepted.	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Houses made fit and houses in which defects .. were remedied after informal action by District Council	...	...	...	...	...	19
Total number of dwellings demolished or closed during the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1964	...	...	...	...	...	135

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

There were no applications submitted for Discretionary Improvement Grants in 1964.

During the same period 18 applications were received and approved by the Council for Standard Grants under the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, as amended by the Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964. The total value of the grants approved amounted to £3,089. 9. 11d. Nine of these schemes, together with eleven earlier schemes were completed during the year and grants totall £1,892. 2. 4d. were paid.

The amenities provided under standard Grant schemes completed in 1964 were as follows:-

Baths	19
Wash Basins	20
Hot Water Systems	19
Water Closets	18
Larders	8

39 inspections (including reinspections) were made at premises in respect of improvement schemes.

No application was received for Grant under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1953, in connection with the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

104 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved. Planning permission was refused by the County Planning Authority for 2 plans. 328 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. Tests of new drains were carried out at 49 premises. The Building Byelaws operating in the Council's area are similar to the Model issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on the 7th November, 1953.

WATER SUPPLY.

The statutory Water Authority for the area is the Wisbech & District Water Board. 10 dwellings on the outskirts of the Rural District are served by Water Undertakings from other areas.

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(i) There has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the area served by Board's mains and there have been no complaints as to quality of the water supplied by the Board.

(ii) Normally routine independent sampling of piped water supplied is not carried out by the Council, as the Water Board's Chemist carries out frequent bacteriological examinations of the mains water at selected sampling points.

(iii) No action by the Council was necessary in respect of contamination.

(iv) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Occupied Houses.</u>	<u>No. with mains water.</u>	<u>No. without mains water.</u>	<u>Percentage Connected.</u>
Benwick	225	224	1	99.55.
Doddington	447	437	10	97.76.
Manea (including Welches Dam).480		474	6	98.75.
Wimblington (including Stonea)	455	446	9	98.02
	<u>1607</u>	<u>1581</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>98.30</u>

Most of the few houses without mains water are situated remote from the nearest main and it is not economically possible to take the water to them.

for the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1964, and Water Analyses, I am indebted to Mr. Cyril Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, and Mr. J. S. Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

New Mains Laid. Nil.

New Connections.

Benwick	6
Doddington	8
Manea	2
Wimblington	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>17</u>

Water Analyses 1964 - North Witchford Rural District.

In order to maintain a pure and wholesome supply to the district, frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1964 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this and adjoining areas. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

Bacteriological Samples taken in the North Witchford Rural District and adjoining areas.

Place of Sampling.	Total Tests taken	No. of Tests Negative.	No. of Tests Positive.	Percentage Negative Tests.
March	76	76	Nil	100%
Doddington	49	49	"	"
Chatteris	102	102	"	"
Manea	50	50	"	"
Totals	277	277	"	"

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up areas of Doddington, Wimblington and Manea are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes. The Great Ouse River Board has granted a four year consent to continue these sub-standard outfalls, but there is an urgent need to bring the sewerage systems for Doddington and Wimblington up to date, so as not only to discharge an effluent in accordance with the Royal Commission standard, but also to provide sewers in all areas where housing development has taken place outside the reach of the existing sewers.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manea have been equipped with modern sewage disposal plants, whilst the new housing estate at Doddington has a septic tank outfall connected with the filter beds forming part of the old sewage disposal works in the village.

Benwick is equipped with a modern sewerage system which came into operation in 1963, and the samples of effluent are well up to Royal Commission standard. The number of connections made to the new sewers in 1964 was 33, making a total of 121 since the scheme came into operation.

The Contract for the new sewerage scheme for Manea commenced in July, 1964, at an estimated cost of £85,000 and favoured by dry weather conditions right through the year good progress was made on laying the sewers, including several deep sections.

In all 1,681 yards of 6" diameter glazed stoneware drawflex sewer pipes were laid, together with the construction of manholes. Shortly after the work began the Council suffered a great loss by the untimely death of Mr. D. Charlesworth, M.C., A.M.I.C.E., M. Inst. Mun. E., the Consultant Engineer who had prepared the scheme.

The majority of houses which are situated in the unsewered areas of the District are provided with cesspool or septic tank drainage, and the Council operates an emptying service through a Contractor, one free emptying per annum being allowed. There is still a considerable number of houses equipped with pail closets at Manca.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil, which is collected by contractors, is composted with straw for use as manure on arable land. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight, the number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 211. The number of pail closets converted to water closets in 1964 was 41, and 33 of these conversions were the result of the provision of new sewers in the village of Benwick.

Closet Conversions 1964.

<u>Village.</u>	<u>Improvement Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Benwick	11	24	35
Doddington	-	-	-
Manca	4	-	4
Wimblington (with Stonea)	-	2	2
	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>41</u>

The ~~following~~ table shows the progress of closet conversions during the past nine years:-

	<u>Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Previously reported			
1956 to 1963.	82	173	255
1964.	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>41</u>
	<u>97</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>296</u>

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses two cesspool emptiers for this purpose. The contents are either discharged over arable land or disposed of at the nightsoil tipping points.

REFUSE.

Collection of household refuse is made from the village areas once every fortnight by Contractors by the kerbside method. Two outlying areas (Forty Foot Bank in Doddington and Benwick parishes and Purls Bridge Road, Manca) are scavenged once every three months. Disposal is by tipping in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is levelled and covered periodically with soil.

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the Council's district is within a "designated area" for the supply of milk, which in the main is distributed by two firms operating from dairies outside the Council's area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District, the seven butchers who have shops in the Area have the animals they purchase slaughtered in the neighbouring Urban Districts of March and Chatteris.

FOOD PREMISES.

(i). The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Grocers, general provision stores & confectioners	26
Butchers 	7
Bakers 	2
Fried Fish Shops 	5
Cafes 	1

(ii). 19 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all the retailers sell prepacked ice cream, which in every case is stored in proper refrigerator cabinets. There are no dairies in the District.

(iii). 16 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.

(iv). No new educational activity was undertaken during the year.

(v). Condemned tinstuffs are normally disposed of by burial at the refuse dumps.

(vi). No examination of whole consignments of food was necessary.

(vii). There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.

(viii). An abstract of the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56 has been distributed to all food premises in the District. 32 visits were made to food premises during the year. Byelaws for handling food were adopted by the Council in 1951 under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no large caravan sites in the area. One site licence was issued during 1964 under Section 3 and 5 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. There were only 2 licensed caravan sites occupied at the end of 1964.

RODENT CONTROL.

Very few complaints have been received regarding rats and mice. The Council do not possess the necessary staff to carry out rodent destruction work other than that confined to sewer dykes and refuse disposal tips. Owing to the pressure of other work it is not possible to devote much time to rodent control inspections, but all complaints are investigated and the opportunity to check for the presence of vermin is taken when premises are visited in connection with other matters. Good liaison is maintained with the local officials of the Pest Department of the Ministry Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,&6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities....	6	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	13	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	21	-	-
Total.....	39	39	1	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).....	2	2	..	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	-	-	..	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	..	-	..	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ..	-	-	-	-	-

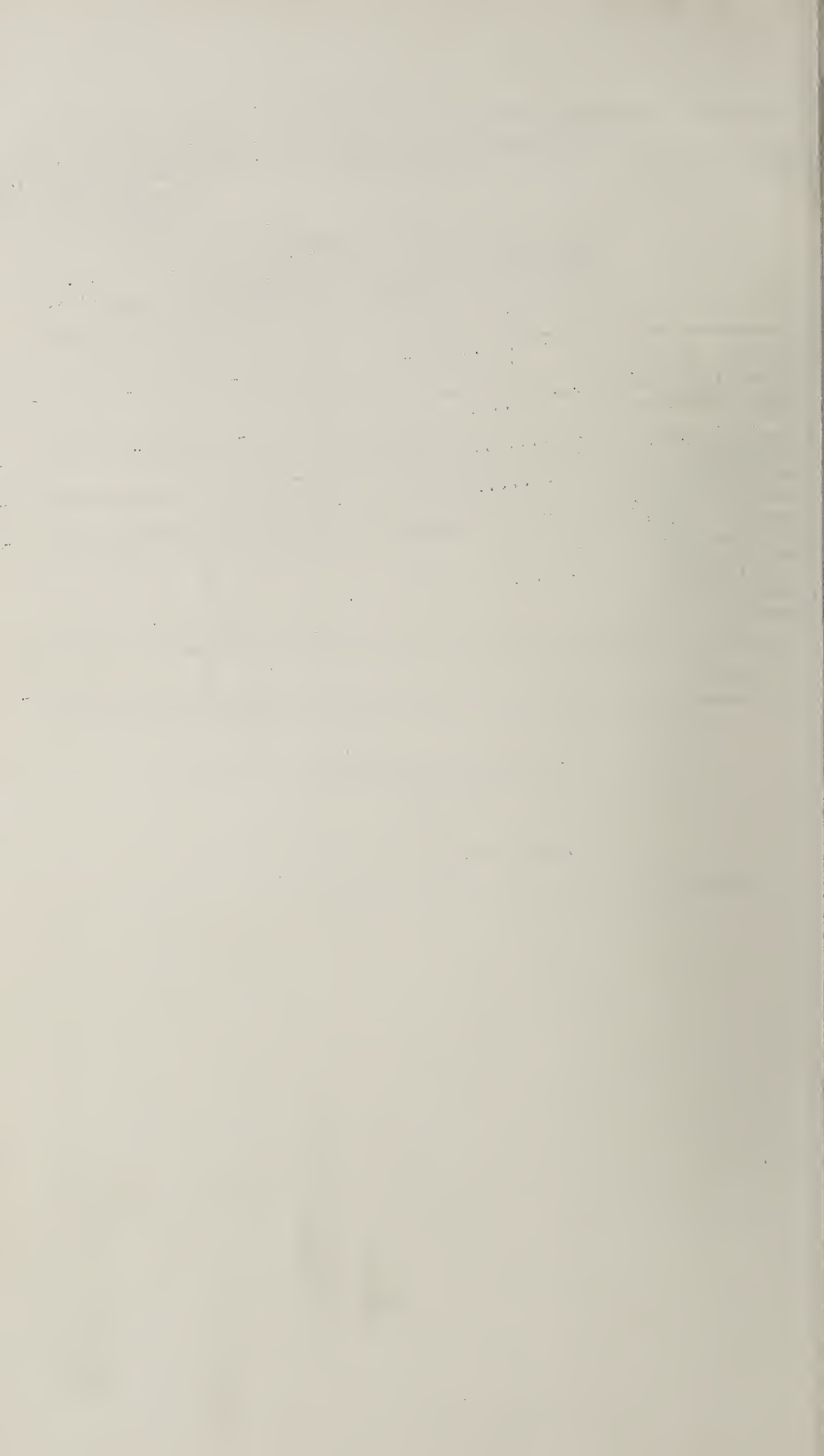
Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient....	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in the district.



THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The following table sets out the information returned to the Ministry of Labour in connection with the above Act which came into operation in 1964.

TABLE A

1. REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

(1) Class of premises	(2) Premises registered during the year	Total registered premises end of year	Registered premises receiving general inspection during the year
Offices.....	9	9	7
Retail shops.....	21	21	17
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.....	1	1	1
Fuel storage depots.....	1	1	1
Totals	32	32	26

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

41

TABLE C

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices.....	24
Retail shops.....	48
Wholesale departments, warehouses..	-
Catering establishments open to the public.....	2
Canteens.....	-
Fuel storage depots.....	1
Total	75
Total Males	23
Total Females	52

J. METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.

